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Eliot-Compton Correspondence Transcription

*[T.S. Eliot to Arthur Holly Compton, August 8 1953. Arthur Holly Compton Personal Papers (WUA00171) Series 3, Box 17, Folder 50: D – E, 1953-1954.]*

[Letterhead – Faber and Faber Limited]

17 July 1953

Dear Mr. Compton,

(I suppose that you would not now wish to be addressed as “Chancellor”). I trust that you and Mrs. Compton have now left St. Louis for some cooler region, but I hope that this letter will reach you, in some place of repose. I should have written before; but my time was too much taken up, after leaving St. Louis; and on my return I found that a period of complete rest in the country was only prudent. But, under the pressure and strain of the events of Commencement, I know that I expressed very little of my gratitude and appreciation to you and Mrs. Compton for your kindness. First, I should like to say that my visit to St. Louis gave me unqualified satisfaction. My first desire was, in common with the other members of my family present, to pay homage to my grandfather – and this was accomplished. My second motive was, to renew acquaintance with my native city and state: and this also was realised. Finally, an honorary degree from Washington University was the last academic honour that I coveted. But I must add, that the way in which this honour was conferred moved me very deeply. And lastly, I was very sensible of the gracious and friendly hospitality of Mrs. Compton and yourself.

I hope – more informally, that our acquaintance may continue and develop; and I am encouraged to hope that I may have the pleasure of welcoming you both in London at not too distant a date.

I am,

Yours very sincerely and gratefully,

T.S. Eliot [signed]

Arthur H. Compton Esqre.,

Washington University,

St. Louis